Klan Leader Sentenced 7/22/77

BALTIMORE (IPI)—A leader of the Maryland Ku Klux Klan was sentenced Thursday to 90 days in jail for sending a letter threatening to kill the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

William M. Aitcheson, who pleaded guilty May 23 to threatening to kill Coretta King, also was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge James R. Miller Jr. to probation for four years.

The probation was imposed under terms of the young adult offenders act, which would allow Aitcheson, 22, to have the felony conviction removed from his record when the four years are up, assuming good behavior.

Aitcheson, a former University of Maryland Student, is also awaiting sentencing on state charges of making explosives and cross-burnings.

Joseph A. De Paul, Aitcheson's attorney, told Miller that if Judges in Howard and Prince George's Counties approve of plea bargains negotiated by state prosecutors, then any jail time imposed for the state charges will run concurrently with the federal sentence.

Dr. Brian Crowley, a Montgomery County psychiatrist, told Miller that Aitcheson is making progress in terms of recognizing his emotional problems.

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